

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 07769 100009Z

73

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W

----- 064026

O 092340Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5956

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 7769

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, BR, CPRS (MORRIS, FREDERICK)

SUBJECT: CASE OF AMCIT FREDERICK B. MORRIS

1. FOLLOWING JUST RECEIVED FROM RECIFE:

QUOTE

RECIFE 0196

EYES ONLY FOR THE AMBASSADOR AND DCM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS BR CPRS (MORRIS, FREDERICK)

SUBJECT: THE MORRIS CASE: A NEW DEVELOPMENT

1. JUST PRIOR TO MY SCHEDULED INTERVIEW WITH FRED MORRIS TODAY, COL. MEZIAT TOOK ME IN TO SEE BRIG GEN MELLO MATTOS WHO WANTED TO TALK. IT WAS CLEAR THEY WANTED TO MAKE SOME SORT OF DEAL, TO ENLIST MY SUPPORT IN HELPING OUT IN THE INTEREST OF THE "FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

2. MELLO MATTOS BEGAN WITH A RAPID SUMMARY OF THE CASE AS HE SAW IT, TRACING IT THROUGH THE PROTEST NOTE, THE ADVERSE PUBLICITY, AND MY DAILY INTERVIEWS. HE SAID HE WAS SHOCKED ABOUT HOW THE CASE HAD BECOME SO "EXAGGERATED" TO ASSUME SUCH GREAT IMPORTANCE IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

3. HE SAID THERE WAS "IRREFUTABLE" EVIDENCE THAT MORRIS IS A SUBVERSIVE. HE BECAME VERY EMOTIONAL AT THIS POINT. COL. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRASIL 07769 100009Z

MEZIAT CHIMED IN THAT THE EVIDENCE LEFT NO DOUBT.

4. BREAKING IN WITH SOME DIFFICULTY, I SAID I HAD NEVER DOUBTED FOR A MOMENT THE SINCRETY OF THEIR CHARGES. I BELIEVED THAT THEY BELIEVED MORRIS TO BE A SUBVERSIVE. THE GENERAL INTERRUPTED, "DO YOU BELIEVE HE IS A SUBVERSIVE?" I RESPONDED THAT FRANKLY I DID NOT KNOW, BUT THAT WAS NOT OUR CONCERN OR DUTY TO DETERMINE WHETHER HE WAS OR NOT. WE, I SAID, ARE ONLY CONCERNED ABOUT HIS WELFARE AND TREATMENT AS A HUMAN BEING AND AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.

5. MELLO MATTOS THEN GOT MORE TO THE POINT. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE OPTIMUM AMOUNT OF INFORMATION FROM A SUBVERSIVE, INTENSIVE INTERROGATION WAS NECESSARY. IN BRAZIL THEY WERE JUST AS CONCERNED AS ANY PLACE ELSE ABOUT THE WELFARE OF PEOPLE, BUT A SUBVERSIVE WAS DANGEROUS TO PEOPLE. IN MY QUESTIONING OF MORRIS, I HAD, HE SAID, ASKED MORRIS ABOUT WHAT QUESTIONS HE WAS BEING ASKED EVERY DAY. MORRIS HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO HANDLE AND VERY UNCOOPERATIVE WITH THE INTERROGATOR AS A RESULT. COULD I NOT JUST CONFINE MY QUESTIONS TO THE AREA OF HIS FOOD, MEDICAL CARE, SLEEP, ETC?

6. I RESPONDED THAT I DID NOT THINK SO SINCE WE, UNDER THE TERMS OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION, WERE CHARGED WITH CHECKING INTO THE WELFARE OF THE PRISONER, AND THAT MEANT BOTH PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL WELFARE. I SAID I WOULD REPORT THIS TO THE EMBASSY AND ASK FOR GUIDANCE.

7. MELLO MATTOS, CLEARLY NERVOUS, ASKED IF WE COULD NOT JUST AGREE AMONG OURSELVES ON THIS SUBJECT. I SAID I WAS SORRY BUT THAT I COULD NOT. BUT IN THE INTEREST OF RETURNING TO A MORE HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP, I SAID I WOULD ASK THE EMBASSY IF I SHOULD CONFINE MY QUESTIONS TO THE NARROW SUBJECT OF MORRIS' PHYSICAL WELL BEING AND FURTHERMORE I WOULD VOLUNTARILY CONFINE MYSELF FOR THE ENSUING INTERVIEW TODAY. I SAID I WOULD NOT DIVULGE THEIR NAMES SO AS TO PLACE THEM IN AN AWKWARD POSITION.
(NOTE: THIS IS THE REASON BEHIND THE USE OF THE RESTRICTED DISTRIBUTION TAG ON THIS CABLE.)

8. MELLO MATTOS HASTILY AGREED THAT WE SHOULD SEEK TO QTE IMPERSONALIZA UNQTE THE WHOLE CASE. HE KEPT MAKING REFERENCES TO "EXAGGERATED/ AND "ROMANTICIZED" REPORTS WHICH HAD CREATED THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRASIL 07769 100009Z

WHOLE ISSUE. I SAID THAT IF HE WERE MAKING REFERENCES TO MY REPORTS, HE WAS WRONG. I REPORTED PRECISELY WHAT I HEARD AND WHAT I SAW, THE GOOD AND THE BAD.

9. IS SAID THAT I WAS SORRY THAT THEY HAD NOT INFORMED ME PROMPTLY OF MORRIS DETENTION; AND THAT IF THEY HAD, PERHAPS A LOT OF PROBLEMS COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED. COL. MEZIAT STOOD UP EXCITEDLY, AND SAID HE HAD TOLD ME ON TUESDAY, OCT 1, THAT HE

WOULD INFORM ME FOR SURE RE MORRIS IN 24 HOURS. I SAID I RECALLED THAT AND HAD SO REPORTED IT, BUT I REMINDED HIM THAT I HAD TOLD HIM THEN THAT I DID NOT KNOW WHETHER I COULD WAIT THAT LONG. I SAID THAT SUBSEQUENT EVENTS AND EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS HAD SHOWN THAT IN FACT MORRIS WAS DETAINED IN THE MORNING OF SEPT 30. AND YET I WAS NOT INFORMED OFFICIALLY BY MEZIAT UNTIL OCT 2, AND I DID NOT GET TO SEE MORRIS UNTIL OCT 4. FOUR DAYS WAS MUCH TOO LONG.

10. ON THE QUESTION OF MISTREATMENT, THEY BOTH HOTLY CHARGED MORRIS WITH BEING A LIAR -- A MAN OF "TWO FACES" WHO IS DECEIVING ME. I REPLIED THAT I REPORTED WHAT MORRIS TOLD, CLEARLY ATTRIBUTING IT TO HIM, AND WHAT I SAW WITH MY OWN EYES. I COULD NOT JUDGE WHETHER HE WAS A LIAR OR NOT, BUT AT LEAST I KNEW WHAT I HAD SEEN AND WE WERE GETTING MORE INFORMATION FROM HIM ON HIS CASE THAN FROM ANYONE ELSE.

11. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION: MY QUESTIONING OF MORRIS AND THE RECORDING SESSIONS ARE APPARENTLY PUTING THEM ON THE SPOT WITH SOMEONE IN HIGHER AUTHORITY. MORRIS, SINCE I HAVE BEEN GRANTED DAILY ACCESS, WILL OBVIOUSLY NEVER "CONFESS" TO ANYTHING, EVEN IF HE MAY BE A SUBVERSIVE OR WHATEVER. WE BROKE HIS PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL ISOLATION ON OCT 3, AND THAT ISOLATION IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST WEAPONS AN INTERROGATOR HAS. I WISH TO CONTINUE A FULL RANGE OF QUESTIONING TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON, BUT WILL AWAIT GUIDANCE FROM YOU. I HAD THE FEELING THAT IF I CONTINUE THEY WILL OBJECT AND DEMAND LEGAL JUSTIFICATION. IF YOU DO DECIDE TO MAINTAIN THE FULL RANGE, I MAY NEED SOME LEGAL INTERPRETATIONS OF ARTICLE 36 OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION AS WEAPONS.

BROWN
UNQUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BRASIL 07769 100009Z

2. UNLESS BROWN'S LINE OF QUESTIONING OF MORRIS IS IMPERMISSIBLE UNDER VIENNA CONVENTION, WE WOULD WANT TO INSTRUCT HIM BEFORE 1000 BRASILIA TIME (0900 WASHINGTON TIME) OCT 10 TO CONTINUE AS HERETOFORE. WOULD APPRECIATE URGENT GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON ON THIS LEGAL POINT.
CRIMMINS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONERS WELFARE, ESPIONAGE AGENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRASIL07769
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740287-0538
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741061/aaaabzxk.tel
Line Count: 160
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CASE OF AMCIT FREDERICK B. MORRIS
TAGS: PINS, CASC, CPRS, BR, US, (MORRIS, FREDERICK B)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005